

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 67, line 15 as follows:

--As an amino acid used in the present invention, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> amino acid is preferred.

Specific examples of such amino acids include glycine, (+)-alanine,  $\beta$ -alanine, (-)-asparagine, (+)-aspartic acid, (-)-cysteine, (+)-glutamic acid, (+)-glutamine, (-)-hydroxylysine, (-)-leucine, (+)-isoleucine, (+)-lysine, (-)-methionine, (-)-serine, (-)-threonine, (+)-valine, ~~aminolactic~~ aminobutyric acid, azaserine, alginine and ethionine.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 7 as follows:

--As a lactam used in the present invention, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> lactam is preferred. Specific examples of such lactams include glycine anhydride,  $\beta$ -propiolactam,  $\alpha$ -pyrrolidone,  $\alpha$ -piperidone,  $\epsilon$ -caprolactam,  $\alpha$ -methyl-caprolactam,  ~~$\alpha$ -methyl-caprolactam~~  $\beta$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\delta$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\epsilon$ -methyl-caprolactam, N-methyl-caprolactam,  $\beta,\gamma$ -dimethyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -ethyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -isopropyl-caprolactam,  $\epsilon$ -isopropyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -butyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -hexacyclobenzyl-caprolactam,  $\omega$ -enantholactam,  $\omega$ -capryllactam, caprylolactam, laurolactam and a dimer of caprolactone.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 123, line 3 as follows:

--20 mg of a glycolic acid copolymer which has been dried at 80 °C under a pressure of  $1 \times 10^2$  Pa for 6 hours is weighed and, then, dissolved in 3 g of the above-mentioned eluent, followed by filtration using a filter having a mesh size of 2 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , thereby obtaining a sample solution.--

**Please amend Table 1 at page 258 as follows:**

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	123,000	186,000	182,000	167,000	179,000	
Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	83.97	88.97	93.97	88.97	88.97	
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	6-hydroxyhexanoic acid	3-hydroxybutylic acid
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Content (% by mole)	16.00	11.00	6.00	11.00	11.00
Content of diglycolic acid monomer units (% by weight mole)	Average chain length	1.08	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.02
Polyl monomer units	Type	-	-	-	-	-
Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	-	-	-	-
Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Degree of discoloration of copolymer	28	29	29	29	29	28
Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	36	38	43	38	38	39
Results of evaluation	Oxygen gas permeability of the melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	9.1	8.0	7.2	8.1	8.0
Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	4	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 2 at page 259 as follows:

		Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	109,000	164,000	122,000	187,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by weight mole)	88.86	96.97	72.96	88.97
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Content (% by mole)	11.01	3.00	27.01	11.00
	Average chain length	1.02	1.01	1.14	1.62
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Type	-	-	-	-
	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	34	33	33	29
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	175	115	39	105
Results of evaluation	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	8.2	7.0	35.0	8.4
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	4	5 or more	4	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 3 at page 260 as follows:

		Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	187,000	187,000	325,000	330,000	163,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	88.94	88.94	88.98	88.94	88.97
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Content (% by mole)	10.99	10.99	10.98	10.98	10.94
	Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Type	Neopentyl glycol	1,6-hexanediol	Trimethylolprop ane	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol
	Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
	Type	-	-	-	-	-
Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyl monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.07	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.09
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	29	33	34	33	39
	Degree of discoloration after the field melt heat stability test	39	43	44	44	48
Results of evaluation	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: “-” means “not detected”.

Please amend Table 4 at page 261 as follows:

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		Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14	Example 15	Example 15 Comparative Example 5
Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		186,000	185,000	189,000	280,000	189,000	165,000
Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		88.96	88.96	88.63	88.62	88.25	93.95
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid					
	Content (% by mole)	10.96	10.96	9.57	9.56	7.93	4.21
	Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.01	1.05	1.02
Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol					
	Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.90	0.90	0.01	0.92
Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	Oxalic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid
	Content (% by mole)	-	0.01	0.87	0.88	1.88	0.89
Total content of Polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		0.08	0.08	1.80	1.82	3.82	1.84
Degree of discoloration of copolymer		29	28	30	33	30	34
Degree of discoloration after the <u>field</u> melt heat stability test		40	39	39	42	38	110
Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)		8.5	8.5	8.8	9.2	12.0	8.3
Strength of the melt-shaped sheet		5 or more					
Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e	Biodegradable e

Note: "—" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 5 at page 262 as follows:

		Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	178,000	148,000	132,000	152,000	93,000	93,000
Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	88.98	88.93	88.91	88.92	88.98	88.98
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type Content (% by mole) Average chain length	Lactic acid 11.00 1.02	Lactic acid 11.01 1.05	Lactic acid 11.01 1.02	Lactic acid 11.01 1.02	Lactic acid 11.00 1.02
Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02	
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Type Polyol monomer units Content (% by mole)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type Content (% by mole)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02	
Degree of discoloration of copolymer	28	28	28	28	27	
Degree of discoloration after the <del>held</del> melt heat stability test	39	44	48	46	38	
Results of evaluation	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet ( $\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{atm}$ )	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: “-” means “not detected”.

Please amend Table 6 at page 263 as follows:

		Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7	Comparative Example 8	Comparative Example 9	Comparative Example 10	Comparative Example 11
Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		186,000	179,000	184,000	109,000	175,000	183,000
Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		88.59	88.58	88.62	88.84	94.00	83.00
Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid				
	Content (% by mole)	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.02	6.00	17.00
	Average chain length	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2.08	2.36
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.20	0.21	0.18	0.14	—	—
Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	—	—	—
	Content (% by mole)	0.21	0.21	0.20	—	—	—
Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Content (% by mole)	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.14	—	—
Degree of discoloration of copolymer		40	39	37	38	30	29
Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test		224	242	196	158	92	58
Results of evaluation	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.8	28.0
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: “-” means “not detected”.